



Janet Napolitano
Governor

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Stephen A. Owens
Director

February 14, 2008

RE: Source Water Protection Program for schools

Dear Principal:

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is launching a new Source Water Protection outreach program for schools that operate their own public water system. ADEQ's Office of Children's Environmental Health would like to partner with your school to develop a source water protection plan. A school source water protection plan further protects two precious resources, our children and our water.

The purpose of Source Water Protection is to prevent contaminants from entering drinking water. The enclosed information sheet offers tips on ways schools can protect their drinking water source. Limiting activities around the wellhead, directing storm water away from the well, restricting chemical use near the well, and performing routine inspections of the water system can all help protect your drinking water.

ADEQ Source Water Protection staff members are available for on-site guidance and technical support to aid in developing a drinking water protection plan specific to your school. Much of the information needed to begin your school's plan is already available from ADEQ.

The main components of a source water protection plan include: compiling available information about your water system; delineating a protection area around your well or water source; identifying potential contamination sources; developing strategies to protect your water; implementing protection activities and involving the community.

We will be contacting you in the near future about this new effort. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like further information about Source Water Protection and ways to protect school drinking water, please contact the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Drinking Water Monitoring & Protection Unit at 602-771-4641 or toll free 800-234-5677, extension 771-4641.

Thank you for supplying safe drinking water to the school children of Arizona.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Owens
Director

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